

Message Text

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GENEVA FOR USSALTDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PARM

SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON ARMS CONTROL

REFS: (A) USNATO 4939;
-- (B) STATE 127831 (EXDIS- NOTAL);
-- (C) USNATO 5154

1. WE CONCUR IN MISSION'S ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING UK PAPER ON NATO AND DISARMAMENT (REFA).

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WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE, SUBJECT TO SEEING THE DRAFT
LANGUAGE, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REFER IN SUMMIT
COMMUNIQUE TO A BROADER ROLE FOR THE ALLIANCE IN ARMS
CONTROL CONSULTATIONS (REF B). WE HAVE INDICATED
TO BRITISH HERE THAT WE CAN SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL
IN COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING SESSIONS. BUT THERE IS NO
NEED FOR NATO TO BE DEFENSIVE ON THIS SCORE. AS MISSION

POINTS OUT, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR, LARGELY AT US INITIATIVE. IN LIGHT OF OUR EXPANDED ARMS CONTROL AGENDA SUCH ACTIVITY IS CERTAIN TO INCREASE FURTHER IN THE FUTURE.

2. ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THE BRITISH PAPER, WE ARE PLEASED THE BRITISH DO NOT PLAN TO PRESS FOR ACTION AND DECISIONS AT THIS POINT. IF THE ILLUSTRATIVE IDEAS CONTAINED IN PARA FIVE OF KILLICK'S SPEAKING NOTES ARE DISCUSSED IN THE MAY 24 NAC OR SUBSEQUENTLY, MISSION SHOULD DRAW ON POINTS IN REF (A) SUPPLEMENTED BY THE FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE:

3. ARMS CONTROL ON THE DECEMBER NATO MINISTERIAL AGENDA. WE HAVE NO PROBLEM AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO GIVING ARMS CONTROL MORE FOCUS AT THE DECEMBER FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. WE WOULD WANT TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE AGENDA CLOSER TO THAT SESSION.

4. MORE SYSTEMATIC USE OF NATO FOR ARMS CONTROL CONSULTATIONS. THE PRESENT MACHINERY AND CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON ARMS CONTROL HAS PROVEN EFFECTIVE OVER A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES. WE SUPPORT UK PROPOSAL TO STUDY WAYS TO IMPROVE IT. WE WANT ALLIED VIEWS ON THE ISSUES; WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THEM FULLY INTO ACCOUNT; AND ARE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS FOR WAYS TO MAKE CONSULTATIONS MORE
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MEANINGFUL. FYI: WE WOULD WANT TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY, HOWEVER, ON ANY SUGGESTION FOR GIVING NATO A MORE DIRECT ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS OTHER THAN MBFR. YOU SHOULD RESIST ANY PROPOSALS FOR FORMALIZING A MANDATE TO THE SPC/NAC TO DEVELOP ALLIANCE POLICY ON SPECIFIC ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. END FYI.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION'S VIEWS ON CREATING AN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF NATO OFFICIALS ALREADY ON BOARD. YOU SHOULD REMAIN NON-COMMITTAL ON THIS FOR NOW.

6. CBM'S. FULLY CONCUR WITH MISSION'S VIEW THAT WORK SHOULD NOT BE STARTED WHILE THE ALLIANCE IS DEVELOPING AN EXPANDED PACKAGE OF MBFR ASSOCIATED MEASURES. FYI: FRG PROBLEMS WITH THE MORE INTRUSIVE MEASURES INCLUDED IN US PAPER NOW UNDER REVIEW IN SPC AND MBFR WORKING GROUP, AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE FRG WOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FOR CBM'S IN AN EXPANDED EUROPEAN AREA AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO MBFR MEASURES, MAKE THIS IDEA VERY UNTIMELY. END FYI. FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION OF NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS IN VIENNA, THE ALLIANCE MIGHT USEFULLY

EXAMINE A COMPLEMENTARY SET OF MEASURES IN A WIDER AREA.

7. MILITARY BUDGETS. WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN ALLIANCE
CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY BUDGET REDUCTION IDEAS. AT
THE SAME TIME, UNTIL THE EAST COOPERATES WITH THE

UN STANDARDIZED MILITARY BUDGET REPORTING EXERCISE,
WE DOUBT THAT A NATO INITIATIVE WOULD HAVE MUCH
EFFECT.

8. RESTRAINT IN THE USE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.
WE CONCUR THAT ISSUE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED
BY EXPERTS.

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CHRISTOPHER

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